

Immunization Registry Progress in Massachusetts April, 2000

Immunization Coverage in Massachusetts

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 89%.

Facts about the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS)

- The MIIS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Massachusetts.
- The targeted age group for MIIS is birth to 18 years of age.
- Currently, entities linking with the registry include:
 - Vital Records Department;
 - School systems.
- There are plans to link with the:
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
 - Boston Immunization Information System (BIIS); and
 - Western Massachusetts Immunization Information System (WMIIS)
- As of April 1, 2000
 - 3.6% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
 - 2.4% of all provider sites were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about the MIIS

- The registry system received the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's approval as a prototype from which other registries can be developed or improve.
- The sophisticated algorithm for record consolidation, matching, and deduplication used by the MIIS has been requested by immunization registries elsewhere in the country.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

- Future plans are to continue to roll out the system to the 1800 provider sites where immunizations are administered to children. Enrolling all provider sites will be a multi-year process.
- Massachusetts has one of the highest immunization rates in the country among young children. This is due to a number of factors including universal distribution of vaccine, well formulated and enforced immunization requirements for school entry, and excellent programmatic work in educating providers and parents on the importance of immunizing children on schedule.
- Boosting rates to meet the goals of Healthy People 2010 (90% of all children age 24-35 months are up to date for their immunizations) and maintaining those high rates will require the concerted efforts from the partnerships between Massachusetts' public and private sectors. Particularly as the immunization schedule gets more complicated, the MIIS is an excellent tool for helping providers ensure patients are immunized on

schedule. The registry also saves staff time, and ensures the most efficient use of public vaccine resources.

- The MIIS can improve the safety and effectiveness of immunizations by enabling rapid identification of children immunized with vaccines which may be recalled by the Food and Drug Administration or the manufacturer. The MIIS was used for this purpose in February, 1999, when the Tripedia[®] brand of DTaP was recalled by the manufacturer.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

- Recruitment of private provider sites is key to implementing the MIIS. Private providers administer 85% of immunizations delivered to children in the state, with the remaining 15% administered at community health centers and local boards of health. Providers are recruited through targeted informational mailings, Grand Rounds presentations in hospitals, promotion in Massachusetts health professional publications, on-site discussions, and word-of-mouth support.
- Health care providers appreciate the system's ability to boost and sustain high immunization levels. MIIS serves as a patient management tool, ensuring ensure health care providers administer children's immunizations on schedule. The registry also assists with the identification of high-risk children who need immunization(s). In addition, the system functions as an automated resource to ensure providers remain current on an increasingly complicated immunization schedule. In an effort to make the system more useful and responsive to the needs of providers, the next version of the MIIS software will include vaccine inventory management functions.
- Provider-specific barriers exist that need to be addressed before the system can be installed widely and considered fully operational. These include the challenge of minimizing duplicative entry of identifying and health information into multiple systems and convincing providers that the system will improve children's health while reducing provider expenses and staff time currently devoted to managing, accessing, and transmitting immunization information.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity

- By the end of 2000, the Department of Public Health (DPH) intends to promulgate regulations mandating reporting of immunizations to the registry. Assuming adequate resources are available, the system will be expanded in a manner that will facilitate provider reporting and use of immunization information from the MIIS.

Current registry funding

- Funding was provided primarily by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with recent small supplements from state resources. · CDC funding has decreased over the last few years for immunization registries and long-term implementation and maintenance will require substantial contributions of funds from other entities.
- It is estimated that once fully operational, it will cost \$2-3 million annually to maintain and operate the MIIS. Successful implementation of the system will require approximately \$3-5 million.
- The Division of Medical Assistance (DMA - Massachusetts' Medicaid agency) and the Massachusetts Immunization Program are discussing the development of a

comprehensive information system which will serve the needs of Medicaid-covered children and also function as a population based immunization registry. The DMA and the Department of Public Health will submit a proposal to HCFA to finance a substantial share of this system while making use of existing MIIS software components.

Discussions were initiated in 1998 and both parties are hopeful that this will be a viable solution for the long term funding of the immunization registry.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Massachusetts

Registry Contact Person:

Name: Robert Rosofsky
Title: Director, MIIS
Address: Immunization Program
305 South Street, 5th Floor
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Phone: 617.983.6836
Fax: 617.983.6926
Email: Robert.Rosofsky@state.ma.us

Additional Contact Persons

Sean Palfrey, M.D.
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Boston Medical Center, Boston
Phone: 617-414-5202

Bob Hoch, M.D.
Co-Chair, Massachusetts Immunization Action Partnership
Carney Hospital, Dorchester
Phone: 617-282-3200

Michael Rousse, M.D.
Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians
Hahnemann Family Health Center, Worcester
Phone: 508-792-8830

Peg Harrington
Regional Outreach Coordinator
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
617-565-1065